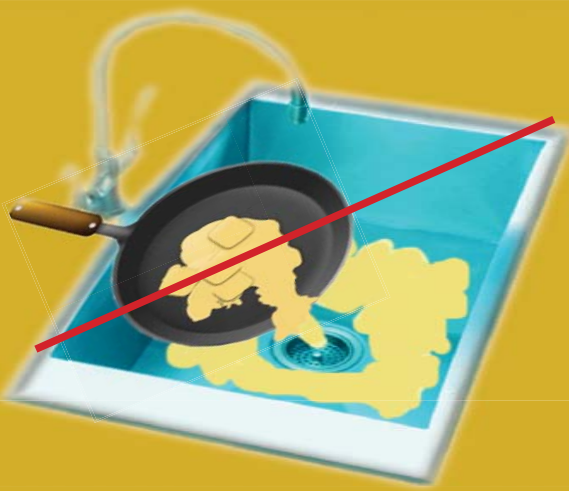


Where Does the Grease Originate?

Most of us know grease as the by-product of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Baked goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products
- Food Scraps



Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. It sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, grease can build up and block the entire pipe. And when it isn't sticking to the pipes, the Vallecitos Water District's system receives several tons of grease it must process every day.

What Can You Do to help?

The easiest way to help is to keep grease out of the sewer system in the first place. There are several ways to do this:

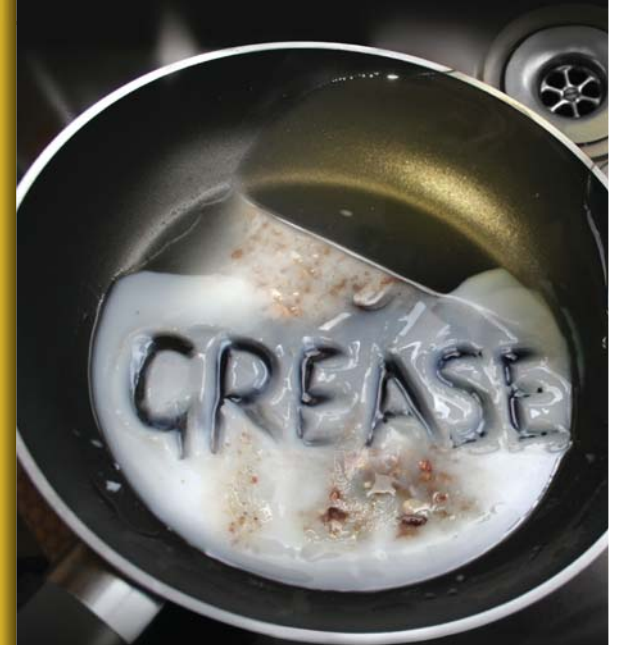
- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please call the Public Information Department at (760) 744-0460.



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*Help Keep Grease
Out of the Sewer*



Why is Grease a Problem?

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage the interiors of homes and businesses, and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewers from household drains, as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home.
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the property owner.
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets. Sewage that flows down a storm drain can eventually pollute our creeks, lakes and beaches.
- Potential contact with disease causing organisms.
- An increase in the Vallecitos Water District's sewer operation and maintenance costs, resulting in higher sewer bills.

Common Myths About Grease

Myth: Garbage disposals prevent grease from going down the drain.

Fact: Garbage disposals only shred solid material into smaller pieces. They do not remove grease.

Myth: Soaps and detergents dissolve grease so that it is safe to dispose in the drain.

Fact: Commercial chemicals and additives (including soaps and detergents) that claim to dissolve grease may just pass grease down the line to clog the sewer lines in other areas. Be cautious of any detergent's claim to dissolve grease.



Myth: Running hot water will dissolve the grease so that it flows down the drain.

Fact: As with soaps and detergents, hot water will only temporarily allow the grease to flow down the drain. The water will eventually cool causing the grease to become solid again. This can occur in your sewer lines or Vallecitos' sewer lines.

What Restaurant and Building Owners Need to Know About Grease Traps or Interceptors

Restaurants, large buildings (such as apartment complexes), and other commercial establishments may have grease traps or interceptors that keep grease out of the sewer system. For a grease trap or interceptor to work correctly, it must be properly:

- Designed (sized to handle the expected amount of grease)
- Installed (level, vented, etc.)
- Maintained (cleaned and serviced on a frequent basis).

Grease traps and interceptors work by using chambers and baffles to separate the solids, and oil and grease (O&G) from the water as shown below. They are only effective if the solids and grease are removed on a regular basis.

